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Vital Signs

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Spring 3-1-2004

## Vital Signs, Spring 2004

Boonshoft School of Medicine

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WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

SPRING 2004—VOLUME 28, NUMBER 1

# VITAL SIGNS



## Dean's Message

Innovative and dynamic are words I like to use to describe Wright State University School of Medicine.

Those concepts are clearly reflected in a unique partnership between the nationally recognized Theatre Arts Department at Wright State and our school. Two renowned filmmakers are helping develop medical education modules, using footage from their documentary on childhood cancer. Over five years in the making, the documentary has provided a wealth of material for discussion in our Social and Ethical Issues in Medicine Courses and has potential for health care professions education nationally.



*Dean Howard Part, M.D.*

### *About the Covers*

*Front:*  
Filmmakers Julia Reichert and Steve Bognar are working with Mary White, Ph.D. (R), director of the Division of Medical Humanities, to develop medical education modules using footage from a documentary on childhood cancer. In the background is Justin, one of the children featured in the modules.

*Back:*  
Al, diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and his mother are an integral part of the documentary, which follows five families and their health care teams for years.

Other stories in this issue reflect those themes as well. The use of technology is making dynamic changes in medical education, and our clinical departments are embracing technological innovations for both residents and medical students. Unique interventions in the treatment of childhood obesity are on the forefront of patient care, and the community-based organization of the Academy of Medicine looks toward the future after more than 25 years of service.

Innovative and dynamic portray key characteristics that allow the School of Medicine to establish and maintain beneficial partnerships and to quickly adapt to external and internal needs. As the school continues to advance and grow, those characteristics provide a steadfast foundation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Howard M. Part, M.D.".

Howard M. Part, M.D.,  
Dean



## Feature

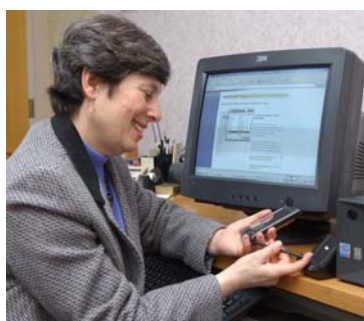
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# Fate Forms Unique Alliance: Theatre and Medicine



Alexandra

Tim

Justin

Jennifer

Al

*I have found power in  
the mysteries of thought,  
exaltation in the  
changing of the Muses;  
I have been versed in the  
reasonings of men;  
but Fate is stronger than  
anything I have known.*

—Euripides  
(484–406 B.C.)

A phone call “out of the blue” changed everything for nationally renowned filmmakers Julia Reichert and Steve Bognar. The end results include a PBS documentary on childhood cancer and curriculum modules for medical education at Wright State’s School of Medicine.

In 1996, Julia Reichert’s teenage daughter had just completed a yearlong treatment for cancer. She was in remission, and life was getting back to “normal.” The phone call was from the chief of hematology/oncology at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical

Center. He proposed a documentary on childhood cancer, envisioning a film that would follow children for several years with the story unfolding chronologically.

“What a huge coincidence,” says Ms. Reichert, professor of motion pictures and community health at Wright State. “Childhood cancer is relatively rare—12,400 children are diagnosed every year in the United States. How likely is it that this doctor is going to pick up the phone and call filmmakers he doesn’t know to make a film on childhood cancer? It was a fated call.”

*“We were interested in the human journey and how families face this crisis, how families get over the hurdles. Cancer is a life-changing experience.”*



Their first reaction, though, was not positive. "It was the worst year of our entire lives," says Ms. Reichert. "Getting her through cancer treatment, fearful all of the time, and the terrible side effects. But we quickly realized that this subject would be an amazing story. We were interested in the human journey and how families face this crisis, how families get over the hurdles. Cancer is a life-changing experience."

Filming began in July 1997, and the duo have logged almost 500 hours of footage that follows the journey of five young people with cancer, their families, and their health care providers. "We followed them through their care both at home and at the hospital," says Mr. Bognar. "Our motivation, and that of the families who agreed to be filmed, was to tell a story that really hasn't been told, and to tell it in great depth and intimacy. But I don't think that we could have done it justice if we hadn't been on the inside for a while ourselves."

As part of the editing process, the filmmakers often invite friends in to view footage and provide feedback. One "fateful" day they invited a neighbor, Mary T. White, Ph.D., associate professor of community health, unaware that she taught medical ethics at Wright State's medical school. As director of the Division of Medical Humanities, Dr. White clearly saw the

potential of this film. The footage depicted numerous ethical dilemmas, such as competence, end-of-life choices, provider/patient relationships, and interpersonal communication.

***"This footage offers a powerful alternative to traditional teaching methods."***

"What we try to do in ethics is raise students' awareness," says Dr. White. "We're trying to teach students how to see, how to read people, and appropriately interpret conversations. We are constantly trying to find more engaging, more thought-provoking ways to develop this awareness. This footage offers a powerful alternative to traditional teaching methods."

With assistance from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation and the Levin Family Foundation, selected footage has already been developed into teaching modules on several topics, such as communication, end-of-life care, and competence. One such module focuses upon Justin, a veteran cancer patient who was diagnosed with leukemia 10 years ago at the age of nine. After recovering from several relapses of leukemia and a devastating stroke, Justin and his family are in crisis. As Justin undergoes an experimental protocol with serious side effects, the family struggles to



***Justin (R) with his mother, who, for the past 10 years, has dedicated herself to her son's care.***



***Tim's story is of a bright, curious young man whose future is thrown far off course by a variety of factors, including cancer.***



***Jennifer is diagnosed with leukemia at age 7. Quiet by nature, she has trouble adjusting to school and her own fragility. By age 12, Jen has become resilient, compassionate ... and the rival of her older sister on the basketball court.***

remain both positive and realistic as Justin's health quickly declines. The filmmakers' module encourages discussion on how cancer affects families and examines quality of life—and death—issues.

"They're both great teachers," says Dr. White of the filmmakers. "They engage us in the film, and they draw out students' responses very well, which enriches what we, the lecturers, say."

In December, the first-year course, Social and Ethical Issues in Medicine, used some film footage to explore issues of competence, medical decision-making, and patient/physician communication. The story of Tim, a slim 15-year-old with Hodgkin's disease, unfolds in three short clips shot over a year-plus time frame. The first clip introduces Tim, his mother, and primary nurse at a time when Tim is feeling good and actively questioning the need for treatment by flushing his medication down the toilet. The second clip presents an uncomfortable medical intervention designed to help stem Tim's weight loss; the third shows a serious discussion between Tim and his physician about his treatment options. The carefully edited clips endear Tim to a roomful of medical students, and the issues he faces frame the discussion. In March, film footage involving end-of-life care provided the basis for the final exam for the Social and Ethical Issues in Medicine Course.

Some medical students, though, have had a much closer relationship with the film. Midway through her first year of medical school, Rebecca Podurgiel, M.D. ('03), began to serve as a logger and researcher. A logger reviews footage and provides a nutshell description of people, places, and events, and a researcher provides factual information that complements the footage. Dr. Podurgiel, a master's-level social worker before medical school, was hooked. Although she did get summer elective credit for her efforts, most of her hours with the film became a labor of love that didn't end until she entered an out-of-state residency.

"I could see how I could integrate my training as a social worker with my training as a physician," she says. "With my background in mental health and substance abuse, I understood how environment influenced what I saw unfolding. I could see the subtlety of communication." Ms. Reichert refers to Dr. Podurgiel as "the model." "Rebecca noticed things like family dynamics and patient/physician relationships, and she understood the more technical side of the medical procedures. Also, she did a vast amount of research for the film, obtaining statistics and other information we needed."

Since then, several other medical students have become involved with the film. Rama



Chandrashekar, Class of 2004, watched early clips in her ethics class. She was considering a career in pediatric oncology, but had not yet accrued much clinical experience. She knew working on the film would be a good opportunity to observe her chosen field. Rama spent an elective logging footage and helping to identify powerful scenes to be considered for inclusion in the film. The work strengthened her resolve to pursue her specialty; she has since performed an “away” rotation in hematology and oncology at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, where the footage was filmed. “It humbles you,” says Rama. “It shows what you can and cannot expect from medicine.” Citing the dedication of the filmmakers and their personal experiences with childhood cancer, she adds firmly: “You can trust them to bring out the best in a topic.”

Matt Ohr, also of the Class of 2004, came to the project with a background and interest in filmmaking. During his elective, the filmmakers were developing study modules for ethics classes. He was impressed by their editing choices. “They approach it from a very interesting perspective, and they’re very fair in what they show and don’t show.”

Kristen Beck and Kate Conway, both from the Class of 2005, also volunteered to work on the film. Kate was drawn to the

science in it, and to scenes where doctors communicate among themselves and with the patients. She says there is no substitute for seeing scenes from real life—“We practice among ourselves, watch videos, and act out scripts, but about the closest we came was in ‘Bad News’ (a simulated patient scenario). To be able to step back and see the human side is so helpful. This movie is going to be very powerful and I’m excited and grateful to be a part of it.” From the Class of 2007, Phoebe Abraham and Elizabeth McIluff will be helping with this project.

In addition to an envisioned series of teaching modules, PBS will share the stories of these five children, their families, and their health care providers in a three-part series, *A Lion in the House*, in the fall of 2005. Mr. Bognar hopes the series will spark “the energy and the empathy to motivate you to learn more or do more or do something in support of families fighting cancer and the organizations who help in the fight.” And fate? He says, “If you believe in fate, you’d have to say that there were machinations going on upstairs.”

—Judith Engle and Sue Rytel

***“This movie is going to be very powerful and I’m excited and grateful to be a part of it.”***



***Alexandra (L) was diagnosed with leukemia at age 4, and by age 7, she has undergone several protocols for her highly resistant disease.***



***Al was critically ill upon admittance to the hospital, diagnosed with a tumor that almost suffocated him. As the months pass, he does well in treatment and handles side effects with increasing maturity.***



# Medicine's Peripheral Brain

The pockets of a physician's white coat are no longer stuffed and weighted down with small well-used notebooks holding handwritten formulas, pharmaceutical notes, or reference materials. Instead, one pocket is lightly filled with a personal digital assistant (PDA). The evolution of technology is changing the way physicians and medical students acquire and use medical information. The PDA, with its compact size and technical capability, is one revolutionary tool for practicing medicine.

Barbara Schuster, M.D., chair and professor of internal medicine,

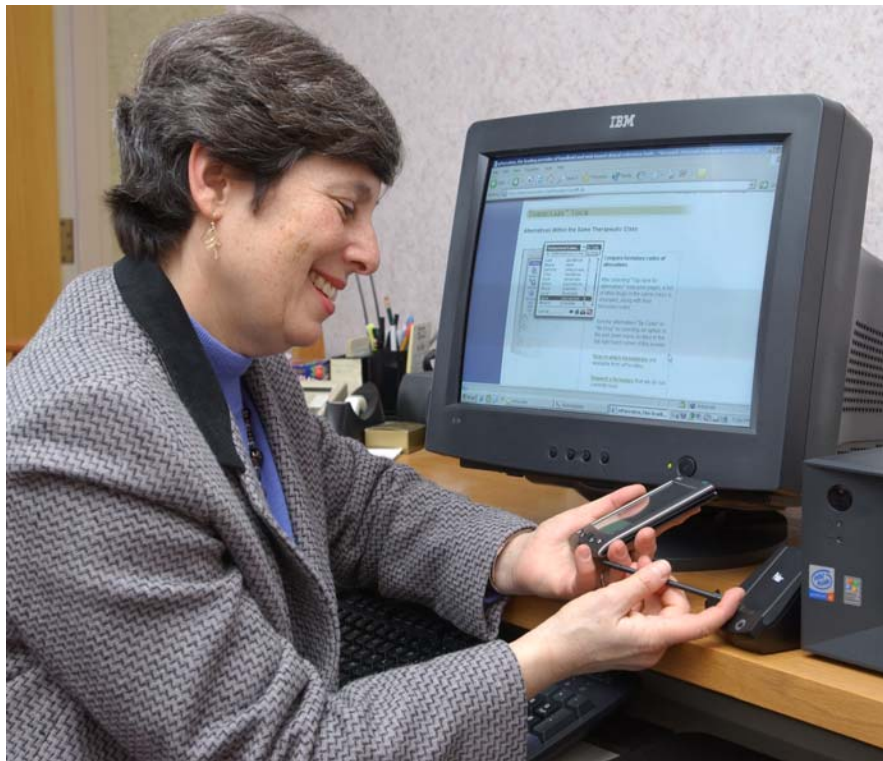
has helped promote and establish the use of PDAs within the department's residency program. Residents use a PDA for faster drug, dosage, and interaction references. "Through the support of DAGMEC (Dayton Area Graduate Medical Education Consortium), residents also use the device for downloading schedules and accessing assigned curricula for a particular month and location," Dr. Schuster explains. "This is a management tool that is both time saving and accurate for ensuring adherence to the resident requirements set forth by the Accreditation

Council for Graduate Medical Education."

With hospitals around the country slowly updating computer systems to include wireless networks, handheld technology will be an integral part of the patient/doctor/information connection. In hospitals that have gone wireless, physicians and residents use handhelds and passcodes to access patient information, including current labs, x-rays, and other vital information about the patient's health care. "Although with HIPAA regulations there are some concerns about using this technology," Dr. Schuster notes, "through the use of access codes and secure dedicated servers, the wireless means of patient information access is probably more secure and private than the use of paper documentation that is normally passed hand to hand."

Steven Burdette, M.D. ('00), Infectious Disease Fellow and instructor for the Department of Internal Medicine, splurged on his first Palm Pilot as a fourth-year medical student working at Greene Memorial Hospital alongside emergency medicine and intensive care physician Dr. Timothy Janz. He saw firsthand the potential of a PDA, and he hasn't looked back. Now on his 10th version, his newest PDA, with a 400-megahertz processor and 64 megabytes of memory, is nearly as powerful as a personal computer. For the past several years, Dr. Burdette has been involved in educating other physicians and medical personnel around the state and country on the use and potential of PDA technology. "A PDA's use is limited only by memory, battery life, and, for medical students, probably the

***"The wireless means of patient information access is probably more secure and private than the use of paper documentation that is normally passed hand to hand."***



***Dr. Barbara Schuster downloads vital information to her PDA.***

cost,” says Dr. Burdette. “The programs and reference materials available for purchase and download to a PDA, especially for the various medical specialties, are wonderful time and space-saving tools for physicians.”

James E. Brown, M.D., assistant professor and director of the Emergency Medicine Residency Program, says the Department of Emergency Medicine has used handheld technology for more than five years and is using it more extensively all the time. Dr. Brown, along with Robert Spence, M.D., a 2003 graduate from the residency program, wrote and published a custom PDA program targeted for emergency medicine that tracks procedures performed by a resident during emergency patient care. This captured data is downloaded to a database and tracked, providing needed documentation for each resident to meet the residency program’s requirements. Another program written by Dr. Spence, titled “Palm PEP,” was supported through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control. This PDA-based program provides a way for a physician to determine what treatment a health care worker stuck with a needle requires. This information can also be downloaded and tracked nationwide.

Dr. Brown states, “The potential for use of PDA interconnectivity in the near future will include ordering tests for patients, physical

and history information available at a glance, and seeing who the next patient will be on a resident’s schedule.” He says, “The portability, backup ability, and minimization of error makes this technology very integral for what our residents do. It would be difficult to function now without it.”

PDAs are now a common tool for medical students as well. John West has used a handheld for more than eight years. As a first-year medical student, he uses his PDA primarily to keep track of his student schedule, addresses, and to-do list. Dean Parmelee, M.D., associate dean for academic affairs states, “I think the greatest use for PDAs in medical school at this time is for the third and fourth year students.” He sees the tremendous

potential to assist in data management, and says that ideas for more interface options are being developed for our medical students for use at both hospital and outpatient sites.

Today’s technology has increased the access to and improved the speed of exchange of information between physicians and their patients. From Dr. Schuster’s perspective, technology and its uses have both good and bad facets. “With all that technology, e-mail, cell phones, computers, and PDAs provide,” she says, “there is nothing that can replace the one-on-one, face-to-face, personal exchange between a physician and patient.

Seeing those visual cues and clues that are key to a patient’s well-being cannot be replaced.”

—Nancy Harker

### ***PDA Sites recommended include:***

[www2.epocrates.com](http://www2.epocrates.com)

[www.studentdoctor.net](http://www.studentdoctor.net)

[www.medicalmnemonics.com](http://www.medicalmnemonics.com)

[www.suim.org/pda](http://www.suim.org/pda)



***Dr. Steven Burdette, using his PDA, shares essential information with his patient.***





# Clinic Confronts Childhood Obesity

Andy was drowsy and unresponsive on arrival at The Children's Medical Center (CMC) ER. The 5-year-old had been referred by his school after he lost consciousness and his lips turned blue. Just four feet tall, he weighed 136 pounds and had a history of waking at night to raid the refrigerator. Although his EKG and echocardiogram were normal, his blood pressure was 126/80 and the oxygen level in his blood was dangerously low.

Andy was diagnosed with life-threatening obstructive sleep apnea and admitted to the hospital's inpatient weight management program directed by Daniel Preud'Homme, M.D., C.N.S., associate professor of pediatrics and director of CMC's lipid clinic. Andy had his adenoids and tonsils removed, lost 18 pounds, and was sent home 24 days later with a Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) device (a mask used during sleep that fits over the mouth and nose to keep the airway open). Additional weight loss supervised by the clinic allowed him to discontinue CPAP four weeks after discharge.

Once rare, childhood obesity has increased at an alarming rate in recent years, Dr. Preud'Homme says. "It has reached epidemic proportions among all ages and across ethnic lines. Although we see children with a range of lipid problems in our clinic, probably 90 to 95 percent also are severely obese."

Since 2002, Dr. Preud'Homme has admitted 38 children between the ages of 4 and 17 to CMC's inpatient weight loss program. Their vital functions must be closely monitored during the initial phase of treatment because they face life-threatening complications related to obesity. The average patient stays for two weeks and loses about 5 percent of his or her weight. With continued treatment, most were able to discontinue medications and supportive therapy for other conditions like hypertension and apnea.

The 1999–2000 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found that 15 percent of youth ages 6 to 19 are overweight and more than 10 percent of those between 2 and 5 are overweight. The CDC considers a child overweight if he or she has a body mass index (BMI) above the 95th percentile on the 2000 CDC Growth Charts. The survey also found another 15 percent of children at risk of becoming overweight.

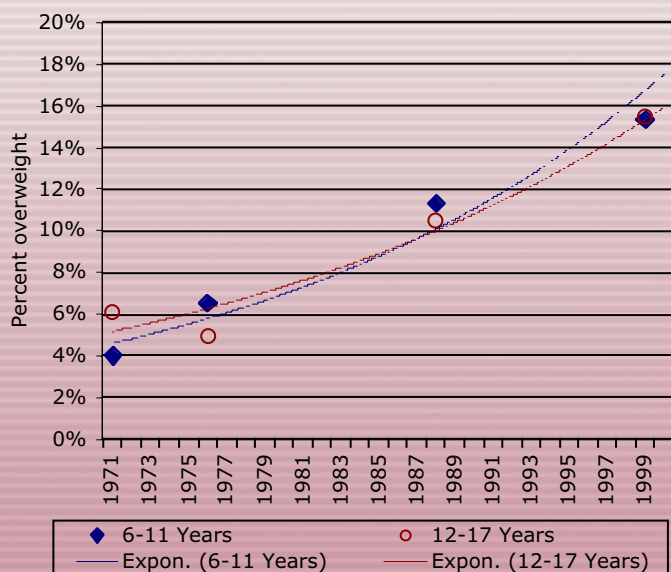
In the cholesterol program he started at Children's in 1993, Dr. Preud'Homme primarily treated children with unusual genetic lipid disorders. Things began to change about four or five years ago. "I started seeing children with very high triglyceride levels. Quite a few had type 4 hyperlipidemia, a lipid disorder seen in metabolic syndrome. I was quite surprised."

Obese children are at risk of type 2 diabetes, hypertension, asthma, liver and kidney diseases, attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, scoliosis, and a variety of other physical and behavioral problems. Social isolation and depression due to bullying are common.

"Soon I realized that as many as 50 percent of our patients had this. I started to see it in children as young as 4 years old. I knew if they could lose weight, they could improve some of this comorbidity. But, I felt that just sending them home, saying 'exercise 30 minutes a day and eat this diet,' wasn't going to do it. That's when I decided to start the lipid clinic."

The clinic saw about 450 different patients in 2002 and close to 800 in 2003. "For 2004, it looks like it's going to be more than a 1,000. And, this is all without any form of advertising."

Prevalence of overweight among children and adolescents ages 6-19 years, 1971-2000



Source: National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES) of 1971–74, 1976–80, 1988–94—known as NHANES I, II, and III respectively—and 1999–2000. The survey has been conducted periodically by the National Center for Health Statistics, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Beginning in 1999, data has been collected on an ongoing basis.



# Epidemic

Although he doesn't advertise, Dr. Preud'Homme does want to spread the word among primary care physicians to be alert for early signs of weight problems in children. To that end, he has developed a nutrition course for first-year medical students, made presentations to internal medicine and family practice residents on type 2 diabetes in childhood, and works with pediatric residents in the clinic.

***"You must bring in all the institutions involved in rearing the children to address obesity."***

The clinic team evaluates each child's cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, metabolic, and exercise tolerance status. They develop diet, exercise, and lifestyle plans geared to the child's age, physical capabilities, and socioeconomic conditions. "We look into the family and the community for resources. You must bring in all the institutions involved in rearing the children to address obesity," Dr. Preud'Homme points out.

He's been especially pleased with the cooperation of most schools, recreation centers, and other community programs in response to the children's needs. "The YMCA offered scholarships so children of any age can use their treadmills with a prescription. I wrote a note for a 12-year-old asking if she could go to Weight Watchers with her mom, and they agreed."

Maintaining a positive attitude is the key to treating children with such seemingly intractable problems, he says. "It's only human to relapse. We never judge. We never condemn or get upset with the children or their families. We always try to provide a positive restructuring."

If a child is happy, healthy, and achieving many of his or her goals, Dr. Preud'Homme says the child is succeeding. "We see a lot of success."

—Robin Suits

#### ***Editor's note:***

***Andy's story was first published by The Children's Medical Center in its Pediatric Clips series on its Web site.***

## ***WSU Researchers Provide Unique Obesity Resource***

The Fels Longitudinal Study, housed within Wright State's Lifespan Health Research Center (LHRC), provides a unique resource for tracking obesity from childhood to adulthood. Using Fels data, LHRC researchers have determined that adult obesity tracks from two critical periods in childhood.

"This is vital information," says Dr. Shumei Sun, professor of community health. "We have not been very successful at reducing obesity in adults. Adult overweight should be prevented early when it starts to develop in childhood."

Between the ages of 4 and 8, children are at their leanest, with a low BMI. Being overweight during this time tracks directly into adulthood with an increased percentage of total body fat. And, the earlier a child begins to add fat during these years, the more likely he or she is to have weight problems as an adult. The same tracking occurs for girls in another critical period—adolescence—says Dr. Sun, who served on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention panel that developed new growth charts incorporating BMI information in 2000.

The Fels Study is the world's largest and longest running study on human growth, body composition, and risk factors for heart disease. Fels researchers have been involved with the internationally distributed growth charts since the first ones were produced in 1977. Since then, the charts have become a standard reference for both pediatricians and parents.



***The CMC Lipid Clinic team includes a nutritionist, nurse diabetic specialist, social worker, and a resource nurse. (From left) Theresa Taylor, Dana Kitchin, Deanna Mayes, Trina Rushing, Christie Bernard, Dr. Daniel Preud'Homme, and Myrna Miller. Photo by Tom Suttman courtesy of The Children's Medical Center.***



# The Academy of Medicine:

The Wright State University Academy of Medicine was founded in 1977 by the founding dean and four community physicians and has grown steadily since its inception. Now the board of the Academy is making changes to usher the organization into a new era.

The traditional role of the Academy has been to provide low-cost loans and to recognize student and faculty achievements, according to Glenn Hamilton, M.D., current chair of the Academy's board of trustees. Through membership, the Academy has circulated over \$2 million in student loans—saving more than 500 students the high costs of commercial loans. With loan repayments and Academy memberships, nearly \$125,000 is being added to the pool annually.

"The students like it because they feel like it's from one colleague to another," said Gwen Sloas, Ed.D., director of financial aid. "This feels like a mentor kind of relationship. And I think it helps influence them to give back in the future. It creates a cycle."

Academy loans are important not only because they're low interest, but also because they can fill in holes in the budget. "We're using it as a lifesaver. It really prevents them from getting into deeper debt," said Ms. Sloas. "The fact that there's no interest while they're in school really helps."

While much has changed in medical education since the Academy's inception, one factor hasn't: medical education continues to get more expensive. "As the cost of medical education spirals upward, I would imagine increased reliance on the Academy as a funding source for medical students," said John Lyman, M.D., a graduate of the school's charter class in 1980 and chair of the Academy's Membership Committee. To better enable the



*Dr. Gwen Sloas reviews financial aid opportunities with a student.*

Academy to meet this need, the board of trustees has adopted three goals: expand its membership, create new avenues of communication with members, and enhance its Annual Spring Dinner.

## *Expanding Membership*

This past year, the Academy sent a survey to members and non-members in the community. "What we found was our base of support was very stable," said Dr. Hamilton. "We're planning to expand the membership base, both in terms of members and diversity." One new group the Academy is looking to recruit is Wright State's medical alumni. "The Academy is a means of giving back to the school with a moderate investment," said Dr. Hamilton. "The Academy should be considered the school-related membership of choice for graduates, in addition to their alumni group."

The Academy is also looking to partner with medical groups, societies, and associations. "This year we have been looking to medical group practices within the Dayton community, designing a participation package that would be attractive to such groups," said Dr. Lyman.

# Envisioning the Future

To Dr. Hamilton, Academy membership is an extension of a physician's role in the community. "Part of the Hippocratic Oath is we will support those who follow us," he said. "Part of that support is support in a financial sense. This is a clear gift back to medicine, to their alma mater, and to the medical school in our community."

## Enhancing Communication

"I want to make sure that the medical community has a clear understanding of our mission," said Dr. Hamilton. "That's why we've been putting out our new newsletter." The Academy's website ([www.med.wright.edu/aom/](http://www.med.wright.edu/aom/)) has a downloadable version of the newsletter. It also has a list of previous events, a list of previous award winners, information on the Academy's history, a list of life members, and an online membership application.

The board is planning on taking an active role in recruiting and has developed a PowerPoint slideshow that board members can show to other physicians in the community.

## Invigorating the Spring Dinner

Another focus for change in the Academy is enhancing the Annual Spring Dinner. Past speakers at the dinner have included Carl Reiner, Paula Zahn, and Geraldine Ferraro. "There are a limited number of times when the medical community gets together. We're looking forward to moving from what it's been to an even more special and celebrating event," explained Dr. Hamilton.

One of the highlights of this event is the awards given to students, residents, and faculty. "It's really what Wright State's all about, that the faculty are so willing to help out the students," said Chris Savage, MSIV, winner of last year's Academy Outstanding

Third-Year Student Award. "It makes it more meaningful. It means that they're behind us 100 percent. It promotes scholarly activity."

This year's dinner was held April 28 at the Dayton Art Institute, featuring the founder of biomedical nanotechnology, Mauro Ferrari, Ph.D., associate vice president for health science technology and commercialization at The Ohio State University. "The Academy provides a forum for fellowship within the medical community," said Dr. Lyman. "The highlight of this fellowship is the annual dinner."

## Joining the Academy

"There are a variety of ways one can contribute to the School of Medicine—and the medical community at large—and participation in the Academy of Medicine is one such avenue," noted Dr. Lyman. "Participation in the Academy allows one to promote excellence in medicine, support research, and recognize examples of professionalism throughout the community, while at the same time providing funding for the ever-increasingly expensive medical education."

There are different options for Academy membership: associate membership (\$50) for residents, regular membership (\$250), and life memberships (\$1,000 plus \$100 for each year under age 60). Corporate memberships are also available for \$5,000.

"Participation in the Academy is an especially gratifying way of giving back to the school in that participation is so multifaceted," added Dr. Lyman. "The participation of those of who have been there before sends a powerful message to those who are there now as well as those who will enter the system in the future."

—Robert Boley

## 2004 Academy of Medicine Awards

*Outstanding Fourth  
Year Student Award*  
**Karl Siebuhr**

*Outstanding Third  
Year Student Award*  
**Emily Johnson**

*Outstanding Second  
Year Student Award*  
**Mike Griesser**

*Outstanding First  
Year Student Award*  
**Kristen Massimino**

*Professional  
Excellence Award  
(Clinical Faculty)*  
**James C.  
Binski, M.D.**

*Outstanding  
Achievement in  
Medical Education  
and Research Award  
(Senior Faculty)*

**Nicholas V.  
Reo, Ph.D.**

*Excellence in Medical  
Education and  
Research Award  
(Junior Faculty)*

**Hari M.  
Polenakovik, M.D.**

*Outstanding Resident  
Award*  
**James R.  
Ouellette, D.O.**



# Advancement & Alumni

## *Building Greatness from Within*

In February, the university kicked off the Family Celebration portion of *Tomorrow Takes Flight: The Campaign for Wright State University*.

The Family Celebration is the combined effort of faculty, staff, retirees, parents, and students to provide ongoing support to the areas most important to them. A goal of \$2 million across the university has been set for the Family Celebration, and many have already contributed to the campaign.

Clearly, the School of Medicine's family is very supportive. Last fiscal year alone, School of Medicine employees generously donated \$71,794. "Philanthropic gifts from the 'family' are endorsements, announcing to corporations and foundations that the School of Medicine is truly an institution worthy of support," says Robert Copeland, director of advancement.

## *School of Medicine Outstanding Alumni*



**David Roer, M.D. (center), accepts the Outstanding Alumni Award from President Kim Goldenberg, M.D. (L), and Dean Howard Part, M.D.**

Based on nominations from School of Medicine alumni, the Medical Alumni Association Advisory Board selected David L. Roer, M.D., as the recipient of this year's Outstanding Alumni Award. A graduate of the Class of 1984, Dr. Roer practices with Pediatric Associates of Dayton, Inc.

While Dr. Roer was always interested in science, his motivation to practice clinical medicine came from his youth. "When I was

growing up, my mom was a registered nurse," says Dr. Roer. "So, over holidays and summers, I worked at facilities with kids with mental retardation." This experience planted the seed for his medical career and caused his focus to shift from research to

clinical care. Naturally, the School of Medicine's focus on primary care appealed to him. "Part of Wright State's philosophy has been towards primary care," says Dr. Roer. "We're not getting into it for the money."

After graduating in 1984 and finishing his pediatrics residency in Dayton, he and fellow classmate Dr. Rick Smith founded Pediatric Associates of Dayton, Inc. The practice now has 12 physicians,

most of whom are Wright State alumni. While a full-time practice is certainly very time consuming, Dr. Roer has been dedicated to serving the community in other ways. "Kids have been my primary focus on what I choose to do," says Dr. Roer. He has served on the Centerville City School Board since 1994, serving as president in 1997, 2001, and this year. As a member of the school board, he spearheaded the effort to remove soda from Centerville schools out of concern for high rates of child obesity. "The pop machines are gone from the schools," he says. "The candies are gone."

Dr. Roer is also a member of the Centerville-Washington Township Diversity Council, formed to promote multicultural diversity and tolerance throughout the community. Dr. Roer and his wife Jenni also co-chaired the Dayton Holiday Festival in 1996, an event he was attracted to because of its focus on diversity.

He has also served on the Daybreak Board of Directors, where he helped establish the Safe Place program, which provides troubled and/or runaway youth a venue of support as an alternative to running away. As a member of the Special Wish Foundation Board (emeritus now), Dr. Roer helped a child realize his dream of golfing with Tiger Woods. As an original member of the Children's Museum of Dayton Board of Directors, Dr. Roer helped initiate the museum, now known as the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery. He has served on multiple committees at Children's Medical Center and is a clinical assistant professor of pediatrics with the School of Medicine.



## A Message to School of Medicine Alumni

The Medical Alumni Association of the Wright State University School of Medicine recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. Graduates of the School of Medicine established the association in 1983 in an effort to further the educational, social, and charitable interests of School of Medicine alumni. Since its inception it has steadily grown in the number of active members and in the scope of benefits available to each alum.

Throughout our formative years of development, the Medical Alumni Association always sought opportunities to assist its current and future members. The Medical Alumni Association is guided by an advisory board that consists of 10 School of Medicine alumni and a medical student liaison from each of the current classes. As a graduate of the School of Medicine you are granted membership in the Medical Alumni Association. I encourage you to become active in both the Medical Alumni and the Wright State University Alumni Associations.



*A large alumni contingent attended a Cleveland Cavaliers game.*

at the Newport Aquarium. Back on dry land, even more excitement was generated by our visit to Cleveland, Ohio, to host a dinner reception for alumni prior to cheering on LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers. More alumni outings, both near and far, are in the works.

Our graduates are committed to creating a legacy of excellent educational opportunities for medical students at Wright State. Our alumni have generously supported educational scholarships for its medical students. Through your support the advisory board is currently finalizing efforts to establish the Medical Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship. In an effort to further assist our students in their career development, the Medical Alumni Association has revitalized the Bed and Board Program. Alumni from across the nation have registered for the program and matched with over a dozen fourth-year medical students.

In response to surveys sent in by several alumni, the Reunion Weekend has moved to August 13–15. The event will include class parties, a CME, a golf outing, a formal dinner, a Dayton Dragons

baseball outing, and more. We anticipate a great turnout for what promises to be a memorable event.

The Medical Alumni Association has accomplished a great deal over the past two decades, but with your involvement even greater future successes are assured. The next time that you sit down at your computer, take the opportunity to log on to [www.med.wright.edu/alumni/](http://www.med.wright.edu/alumni/) and add your name to our class listings, subscribe to the SOM alumni e-newsletter, register with the Bed and Board Program, and contribute to our searchable class notes database. Don't forget to order a few items from our SOM clothing line from our online store so that you can proudly advertise your alma mater to the world.

I am excited about what the Medical Alumni Association has planned for the upcoming years. All we need to make it work is Y-O-U. If you have any suggestions for future alumni events or would be interested in serving as a member of the Medical Alumni Association Advisory Board, please contact us. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

*—Gary LeRoy, M.D., Chair  
Medical Alumni Association  
Advisory Board*



In addition to sponsoring an annual CME and Reunion Weekend, the Medical Alumni Association has hosted an exciting variety of activities over the past year designed to appeal to the full spectrum of our graduates. A very successful event in 2003 brought alumni to the banks of the Ohio River to enjoy an after-hours party



*Dayton Dragons Mascot Gem with alumni group.*



WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE  
**REUNION<sup>2003</sup>**  
W E E K E N D





# Class Notes

1983

**Philip A. Cusumano, M.D.**, was recently listed in *Cleveland Magazine's* "Top Docs" listing of internal medicine physicians in the Cleveland area. He practices internal medicine at the Cleveland Clinic regional medical practices in Chagrin Falls. He and his wife Barbara have four children: Laura, Christy, Katy, and Chelcie.

After spending the last few years with Cerner Corporation as physician executive doing CPOE projects across the country, **Philip A. Smith, M.D.**, has taken on the role of vice president for medical affairs for a community hospital in Tampa Bay, Florida, and as medical director of clinical informatics for the Adventist Health System (30 hospitals), as they install advanced clinical information systems including CPOE at 27 of their hospitals. He and his wife Beth are active in their local church and love teaching financial stewardship and investing. They have three children: Amy 21, Brian 17, and Christina 15.

1984

**Gregory M. Boone, M.D.**, started a new practice, Licking Memorial Surgical Services, at Licking Memorial Health Professionals in Newark,

Ohio. Prior to this, he was affiliated with Metropolitan Surgery, Inc., in Columbus. He and his wife Kimm have two sons: Brian and Sean.

1986

**Thomas E. Green, M.D.**, practices with White Oak Family Practice in Cincinnati.

1988

**Jeanne M. Bohrer, M.D.**, has joined the Board of Trustees for United Rehabilitation Services in Dayton. She practices with Contemporary Pediatrics, Inc., and is a fellow in the American Academy of Pediatrics. She is medical director at Stillwater Center and assistant clinical professor with Wright State University. She and her family live in Huber Heights.

**Eric M. McHenry, M.D.**, has been in private practice for more than 12 years with South Dayton Family Physicians in Kettering. He and his wife Carrie have two sons: Scott and Jonathan.

1990

**Mark S. Pack, M.D.**, recently started a new general surgery practice at Holzer Medical Center in Jackson, Ohio. Prior to this, he treated patients through Holzer Medical Center's emergency department. Dr. Pack completed his

surgical residency at Eisenhower Army Medical Center in Augusta, Georgia.

1994

**Rebecca S. Lundquist, M.D.**, recently took a faculty position as an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts. The position is primarily clinical, and she teaches both residents and medical students. Last September, she married Jonathan DiNitto, Ph.D., a biochemist.

1998

**Steven F. Brezny, M.D.**, received the American Medical Association's Excellence in Medicine Award, presented to young professionals who support medical education by taking leadership positions in the community. He is active with numerous committees for the Ohio Academy of Family Physicians, and is a national speaker and advocate of electronic medical records. He practices in Powell, Ohio.

**Jennifer M. Hill, M.D.**, opened an internal medicine practice at Medical Service Associates in Fairborn. She completed her residency through Wright State School of Medicine and is a member of the Greene Memorial Hospital medical staff.

1999

**Major Mark Green, M.D.**, was named flight surgeon of the year for the U.S. Army. He worked with special forces units during Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

**Timothy A. Rak, M.D.**, practices emergency medicine with Sacred Heart Hospital in Pensacola, Florida. He lives in Gulf Breeze with his wife Nageen, a dentist.

2000

**Sean J. Barnett, M.D.**, is at the University of Minnesota, where he is performing laboratory research in the field of unresectable neuroblastoma treatment. He is working towards a Ph.D. in experimental surgery and plans on obtaining a fellowship in pediatric surgery at the conclusion of his general surgical training. He and his wife Kelly, an attorney, have a daughter, Cade.

**Heather L. Hilkowitz, M.D.**, is currently chief resident in obstetrics/gynecology at Indiana

University School of Medicine. She and her husband Fred, a software engineering manager at Raytheon, Inc., were married in 2001 and are expecting twins in May 2004.

**Adam J. Houg, M.D.**, is in residency at Riverside Methodist Hospital in Columbus. He married Kelly Essex in July 2003 in Athens, Ohio.

**Amy Keebler Jones, M.D.**, is with Samaritan Pediatrics in Huber Heights. She and her husband Chris, a consultant, have one child, Harrison.

2001

**Kerri M. Bagnall, M.D.**, will begin a fellowship in pediatric hematology/oncology at the University of Cincinnati in 2004. She married Christopher Woody in August 2003.

**John Salter, M.D.**, has been named chief resident of internal medicine at Kettering Medical Center, Kettering, Ohio.

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## In Memory

*The School of Medicine extends its deepest sympathies to the family of Andrew C. Renz, M.D., Class of 1988. A pediatrician in Louisville, Kentucky, Dr. Renz died at the age of 42 from chronic lymphocytic leukemia.*



# Team Physicians: On the Field and in the

Since the sixth century B.C. and the classical athletic games of ancient Greece, athletes have honed their skills for competition. In today's society, competitors of all ages take part in many forms of athletic rivalry. For physicians who work with these athletes, care encompasses more than just making sure an injured player gets help. It is working alongside the athletic trainers, coaches, and other physicians to ensure that physical conditioning and well-being are considered during warm-ups, workouts, training, and play.

Most team physicians are volunteers. They give their time to coordinate the physical health of athletes for many reasons, usually because it is fun, fast-paced, exciting, and has many long-lasting rewards.

## Sean Convery, M.D.

*"They make you want to do more, work harder, and in turn become successful in all you do."*



Sean Convery, M.D.

Photo by Ron Alvey, Dayton Daily News.



2004 Capitol One Bowl in Orlando, FL—Purdue vs. Georgia. Starting quarterback Kyle Orton dislocates his left thumb during the game and is assisted by Dale Snead, M.D. Photo by Thomas Campbell.

Sean Convery, M.D. ('81), is the team physician for both Kettering Fairmont High School and the University of Dayton athletic teams. He says a volunteer team physician must be interested in kids. "It takes a lot of work, and entails long hours, but those things are more than made up for when you see the kids do well," says Dr. Convery. "Working with kids and with a healthy population is fun. They make you want to do more, work harder, and in turn become successful in all you do."

## Dale Snead, M.D.

*"I love orthopedics, and I want to be the best—just like most athletes work hard to be their best."*

Dale Snead, M.D. ('91), is the team physician for Warren Central High School in Indiana, Purdue University, University of Indianapolis, and the Indiana Firebirds arena football team. Dr. Snead says he volunteers because he has a passion for athletics and for seeing young people grow and succeed—both in athletics and in life. As an

# Locker Room

orthopedist, his goal is to be an expert in his field. “I love orthopedics, and I want to be the best—just like most athletes work hard to be their best,” he says. “As a volunteer physician, the players look at me in a different way. They know I take time away from my family to help them. This makes them want to work harder to get better, because they know I am there to help them get back on the field and accomplish their goals. There is a great deal of information that can be translated from sports-related orthopedics to a variety of everyday patient needs. For most people their careers as athletes are short. However, the translation of orthopedic care can be effectively applied to that of anyone, from weekend warriors to businessmen and women.”

## Kathy Dixon, M.D.

*“The most important thing is knowing when to keep an athlete out of the game.”*

Kathy Dixon, M.D. ('88), began volunteering as a team physician for her sister's volleyball team and eventually took on the Elgin High School Comet football team. She helps coordinate all the sports physicals for the young athletes in the county, where more than 300 kids are given free physicals by county physicians once a year. “Sports are an excellent outlet for kids of all ages,” she says. “I thoroughly enjoy seeing the kids advance in their sport, and when they are hurt, it is rewarding to see them work so very hard to improve both physically and, through the process, in their own self-esteem.”

Alongside the local EMS squads and athletic director, Dr. Dixon works the home game

sidelines, cheering the team on. “The most important thing is knowing when to keep an athlete out of the game,” she says. “Kids always say they are all right because they really want to get back out there in the action. Therefore, in the heat of the moment, when there is a lot of pressure, I tell myself ‘this is, after all, just a game,’ and if I have any doubt, they are staying out. Everyone is very supportive of my decisions.”

## Roger McCoy II, M.D.

*“I’ve enjoyed being involved in sports medicine, and much of what I’ve learned in training and on the field I have put to good use in my private practice.”*

Roger McCoy II, M.D. ('90), volunteers as the head primary care team physician for Arizona Diamondbacks baseball and is the team physician for both Arizona State University (ASU) and Mountain Pointe High School in Phoenix. As a primary care sports medicine physician, he is responsible for each athlete's total health care—from colds to sprains. He provides both pre- and post-season sports physicals, game coverage, and any immediate care that is required during events. (He treated and admitted National League MVP Barry Bonds to a hospital last summer during a game.) Free time is sacrificed so he can cover all the home varsity football games and weekly training room visits for the local high school. He is paid a small stipend for his event coverage at ASU and works one full day per week on campus at ASU, along with covering different events when needed. Dr. McCoy's involvement with the Diamondbacks entails frequent trips to Tucson during

their spring training and coverage for most of the 81 home games, for which he is provided two front row season tickets and any travel expenses during the playoffs. Dr. McCoy states, “I’ve enjoyed being involved in sports medicine, and much of what I’ve learned in training and on the field I have put to good use in my private practice. It has always been a joy helping someone get back to his or her activities as quickly and as safely as possible.” His recommendation is



Roger McCoy, M.D., (L) with Luis Gonzalez holding the World Series trophy for the Diamondbacks.

to, “Get involved with a high school team in your area. Work on a paper or research project in the sports med area. Apply for a sports medicine fellowship.”

After the coin is tossed, the whistle blows, or the ref shouts, “Play Ball!” cheer both the competing athletes and those unheralded heroes—team physicians—who give of themselves to keep athletes at the top of their game.

— Nancy Harker



# MATCH DAY

The Wright State Medical Sciences Auditorium was filled with family and friends to learn where graduating seniors will enter residency. Fifty-three percent will remain in Ohio and 21 percent in the Dayton area for residency training. Fifty-eight percent will enter primary care and others a wide variety of specialty areas.

Soozan Abouhassan  
Anesthesiology  
University Hospitals  
Cleveland

Susan Razavi  
Abouhassan  
Internal Medicine  
University Hospitals  
Cleveland

William Abouhassan Jr.  
Surgery-General  
Summa Health/  
NEOUCOM  
Akron

Xavier Adrien  
Anesthesiology  
University of Texas  
Medical School  
Houston

Anuj Agarwala  
Internal Medicine  
Indiana University School  
of Medicine  
Indianapolis

Mohammad Almubaslat  
Neurosurgery  
Tulane University  
New Orleans

Micah Baird  
Pediatric Physical  
Medicine & Rehabilitation  
University Hospital  
Cincinnati

Jacqueline Barnes  
Internal Medicine  
Kettering Medical Center  
Kettering, OH

Jana Bourn  
Family Practice  
Wright State University  
School of Medicine  
Dayton

Thomas Brady  
Internal Medicine  
Mount Carmel Health  
Columbus

Jeremy Brywczyński  
Emergency Medicine  
Vanderbilt University  
Medical School  
Nashville

Ryan Buchholz  
Medicine/Pediatrics  
University Hospital  
Cincinnati

Jamie Byler  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Akron General Medical/  
NEOUCOM  
Akron

Shawn Campbell  
Emergency Medicine  
Wright State University  
School of Medicine  
Dayton

Rama Chandrashekar  
Pediatrics  
University of Tennessee  
College of Medicine  
Memphis, TN

Allen Chudzinski  
Surgery-General  
New York Medical  
College/St. Vincent's  
Hospital  
New York

Max Clark  
Transitional Year  
Balboa Naval Medical  
Center  
San Diego

Alisahah Cooke  
Family Practice  
Carolinas Medical Center  
Charlotte, NC

Mark DeBrunner  
Pediatrics  
Ohio State University/  
Children's Hospital  
Columbus

Tanvi Desai  
Pediatrics  
Carolinas Medical Center  
Charlotte, NC

Mariko DeWire  
Pediatrics  
University of Tennessee  
College of Medicine  
Memphis, TN

Amina Dilberovic  
Pediatrics  
Loyola University  
Medical Center  
Maywood, IL

Nathaniel Dittoe  
Internal Medicine  
Kettering Medical Center  
Kettering, OH

Danyel Edwards  
Family Practice  
Louisiana State Univer-  
sity School of Medicine  
New Orleans

Kendall Erdahl  
Family Practice  
Clinton Memorial  
Hospital  
Wilmington, OH

Rudolph Fajardo  
Medicine/Pediatrics  
University Hospital-  
University of Mississippi  
Jackson, MS

Lori Finley  
Pediatrics  
Cleveland Clinic  
Foundation  
Cleveland

David Foulk  
Orthopaedic Surgery  
Indiana University  
School of Medicine  
Indianapolis

Matthew Fourman  
Surgery-General  
Synergy Medical  
Education Alliance  
Saginaw, MI

Mary Gendy  
Emergency Medicine  
Martin L. King Jr./Drew  
Los Angeles

Jonathon Gerkin  
Psychiatry  
University of North  
Carolina Hospital  
Chapel Hill, NC

Natalie Godzik  
Family Practice  
Wright State University  
School of Medicine  
Dayton

Heidi Gullett  
Family Practice  
Oregon Health & Science  
University  
Portland, OR

David Hart  
Psychiatry  
Wright State University  
School of Medicine  
Dayton



Heather Haynes  
Family Practice  
Latrobe Area Hospital  
Latrobe, PA

David Henderson  
Psychiatry  
Palmetto Richland  
Memorial  
Columbia, SC

Paul Hilliard  
PGY1-Transitional Year  
Akron General Medical/  
NEOUCOM  
Akron  
PGY2-Anesthesiology  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, MI

Amanda Holbrook  
Internal Medicine  
Ohio State University  
Medical Center  
Columbus

Kara Hughan  
Pediatrics  
Children's Hospital  
Cincinnati

Aaron Johnson  
PGY1-Surgery-General  
PGY2-Urology  
Georgetown University  
Hospital  
Washington, DC

Heidi Kabler  
Emergency Medicine  
Wright State University  
School of Medicine  
Dayton

Lisa Kaiser  
Family Practice  
Miami Valley Hospital  
Dayton





Judith Kennedy  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
St. Vincent Hospital  
Indianapolis

Andrew Khavari  
Psychiatry  
Wright State University  
School of Medicine  
Dayton

Heather Kleinhenz  
Family Practice  
Miami Valley Hospital  
Dayton

Steven Konrad  
Psychiatry  
Johns Hopkins Hospital  
Baltimore

Nana Korsah  
Internal Medicine  
Metrohealth Medical  
Center  
Cleveland

Michael Krier  
Internal Medicine  
Keesler Air Force Base  
Biloxi, MS

Vanessa Madrigal  
Pediatrics  
Miami Children's Hospital  
Miami, FL

Erica Mailler  
Dermatology  
University Hospital  
Cincinnati

Sayyida Martin  
Internal Medicine  
Howard University  
Hospital  
Washington, DC

Samantha Mast  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Good Samaritan Hospital  
Cincinnati

Sarah McElwee-Denny  
Pediatrics  
University of Washington  
Affiliated Hospitals  
Seattle

Puja Mehrotra  
Pediatrics  
Rush University Medical  
Center  
Chicago

Todd Merrick  
Internal Medicine  
Providence Portland  
Medical Center  
Portland, OR

Anis Miladi  
Internal Medicine  
Naval Medical Center  
Portsmouth, VA

Alicia Mills  
Pediatrics  
Texas Tech University  
Health Science Center  
Lubbock, TX

Elizabeth Muennich  
Internal Medicine  
Kettering Medical Center  
Kettering, OH

Matthew Ohr  
PGY1-Surgery-General  
Riverside Methodist  
PGY2-Ophthalmology  
Ohio State University  
Columbus

Erin Owen  
Pediatrics  
University of Louisville  
School of Medicine  
Louisville, KY

Oluchi Ozumba  
PGY1-Internal Medicine  
Methodist Hospitals  
Dallas  
PGY2-Anesthesiology  
University of Maryland  
Baltimore

Eric Pennock  
PGY1-Internal Medicine  
Allegheny General  
Hospital  
Pittsburgh, PA  
PGY2-Ophthalmology  
Nassau University  
Medical Center  
East Meadow, NY

Rachel Piening  
Surgery-General  
Grand Rapids Medical  
Education and Research  
Center  
Grand Rapids, MI

Sara Rinala  
Obstetrics/Gynecology  
Good Samaritan Hospital  
Cincinnati

Mary Rodes  
Family Practice  
Wright State University  
School of Medicine  
Dayton

Christopher Savage  
Otolaryngology  
University of Cincinnati  
Cincinnati

Joseph Seaman  
Internal Medicine  
University Hospital  
Cincinnati

Crystal Shaffer  
Family Practice  
Miami Valley Hospital  
Dayton

Jason Sherman  
Physical Medicine &  
Rehabilitation  
Ohio State University  
Medical Center  
Columbus



Karl Siebuhr  
Orthopaedic Surgery  
Wright State University  
School of Medicine  
Dayton

Mindy Skiver  
Pediatrics  
Children's Hospital-  
NEOUCOM  
Akron

Todd Smith  
Internal Medicine  
University Hospitals  
Cleveland

Anshuman Swain  
PGY1-Transitional Year  
Mount Carmel Health  
PGY2-Anesthesiology  
Ohio State University  
Medical Center  
Columbus

Brian Syska  
Emergency Medicine  
Wright State University  
School of Medicine  
Dayton

Zeeshan Tayeb  
PGY1-Internal Medicine  
University Hospital  
Cincinnati  
PGY2-Physical  
Medicine and Rehabili-  
tation  
Medical College of Ohio  
Toledo

Sybille Val  
Surgery-General  
SUNY Health Science  
Center  
Brooklyn

LaKeisha Woodyard  
Transitional Year  
University of Tennessee  
College of Medicine  
Chattanooga, TN

Shamolie Wyckoff  
PGY1-Internal Medicine  
Virginia Commonwealth  
University Health System  
Richmond, VA  
PGY2-Physical Medicine  
and Rehabilitation  
Johns Hopkins Hospital  
Baltimore





## New Faces

**Sameh Abuerreisch, M.D.**



**Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine M.B.B.S.:**  
University of

Jordan, Amman, Jordan

**Residency:** Indiana University (internal medicine)

**Fellowship:** Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center (hematology/oncology)

**Roberto Colon, M.D.**



**Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine M.D.:**  
Pennsylvania

State College of Medicine

**Residency:** Kettering Medical Center (internal medicine)

**Anthony Ochoa, M.D.**



**Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine M.D.:**  
Uniformed Services

University of the Health Sciences

**Residency:** WPAFB Medical Center (internal medicine)

**Fellowship:** Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center (cardiology)

## New Research Project Targets Inflammation

Julian Gomez-Cambroner, Ph.D., just received a \$1.4 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to examine the molecular and cellular biology behind the inflammation caused by our immune system. The three-year project places Wright State University School of Medicine at the forefront of an exciting new

biomedical research field. Dr. Gomez-Cambroner, associate professor of physiology and biophysics at Wright State's School of Medicine, studies white blood cell migration and the chemical agents that signal that movement. Dr. Gomez-Cambroner has discovered one of these emergency chemical signals is GM-CSF, a natural hormone normally

produced in bone marrow. He has also discovered that a fungus, Rapamycin, has a profound inhibitory effect upon the chemical signaling done by neutrophils. This research has been recently published in four scientific journals, and Dr. Gomez-Cambroner is now serving as an ad hoc grant panel reviewer for the National Institutes of Health.



*(L-R) Dean Howard Part; chairman of the Premier Board, Fred Weber; Dr. Steve Cohen, director of the Dayton VA; and Dr. Kim Goldenberg, president of Wright State University, at the press conference announcing the community collaboration to develop a new Department of Geriatric Medicine.*

## Wright State University School of Medicine Establishes a New Center for Genomics Research

The School of Medicine will capitalize on the scientific expertise and infrastructure of its state-of-the-art Gene Expression Laboratory to create a new research center of excellence in genomics. This multiuser facility was developed with the assistance of The Kettering Fund, the Department of Defense, and other sources of external funding over the

past three years. In December, The Kettering Fund invested one-half million additional dollars to help create the new center.

Participating faculty in genetics research will number around 50 and include both basic scientists and clinicians. Collaborative projects underway include studies of brain and ovarian cancers, light damage to

the retina, HIV infections, and toxicology.

Steven J. Berberich, Ph.D., associate professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, will serve as director of the new center. Dr. Berberich received his doctorate from Wright State in 1990 and completed his postdoctoral work at Princeton University.

## In Memoriam

The School of Medicine and medical community were deeply saddened by the deaths of Richard A. Falls, M.D., and Raymond Kahn, M.D., last October. Dr. Falls established the Family Medicine Residency Program and the Family Health Center at Yellow Springs, using his private practice as a nucleus. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Richard A. Falls, M.D., Scholarship Endowment, which was established in 1991 by the



**Dr. Richard Falls**

Department of Family Medicine.

Dr. Kahn was one of five founding members of the Academy of Medicine and held leadership roles at the School of Medicine, the Department of Family Medicine, and throughout the commu-



**Dr. Raymond Kahn**

nity. Memorial contributions may be made to the Dr. Raymond and Melba Kahn Medical Advancement Fund, established by Dr. and Mrs. Kahn to be used at the discretion of the dean of the School of Medicine for direct student benefit.

## Community Outreach

A new coalition, the Brothers to Brothers/Sisters to Sisters Coalition, rolled out a new community outreach van at the Drew Health Center, 1323 West Third Street, in December. The new van will conduct free community education and testing, including blood sugar, blood pressure, cholesterol, HIV and PSA-prostate blood tests. The mobile unit will be located at designated places around the community and its services will be entirely free.

Partners in the coalition, with assistance from the Substance



**Dr. Dennis Moore (R)**, associate professor of community health and director of Substance Abuse Resources and Disability Issues, with a large turn out of community members to roll out the new outreach van.

Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration in Washington, D.C., include the AIDS Outreach/Prevention Project; Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services Board; the AIDS Resource Center-Ohio; Center on Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Services (CADAS); Consumer

Advocacy Model (CAM); Crisis Care/Samaritan Behavioral Health; Montgomery County Combined Health District; Project C.U.R.E.; Southern Christian Leadership Conference; and Wright State School of Medicine's Center for Interventions, Treatment and Addictions Research.

## New Faces

**Michael Joseph Prayson, M.D.**

**Associate Professor, Orthopaedic Surgery M.D.:** Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine

**Residency:** Akron General Medical Center (orthopaedic surgery)

**Fellowship:** University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (orthopaedic traumatology)

**Steven Ritter, M.D.**

**Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine**

**M.D.:** Indiana University

School of Medicine

**Residency:** San Antonio Uniformed Services Health Education Consortium, Lackland AFB, (dermatology)



**Richard Simman, M.D., CWS**

**Assistant Professor, Surgery**

**M.D.:** Louvain Catholic

University, Brussels, Belgium

**Residency:** Columbia University-St. Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital Center, New York (general surgery)

**Fellowship:** State University of New York at Stony Brook (burn and plastic surgery)





### New Faces

**Joshua L. Wright, M.D.**

**Instructor, Emergency Medicine**

**M.D.:** Medical College of Wisconsin

**Residency:** Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan (emergency medicine)

**Jayson L. Yap, M.D.**

**Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine**

**M.D.:** University of the Philippines

**Residency:** Cleveland Clinic Foundation (internal medicine)

**Fellowship:** Stanford University Medical Center (nephrology)

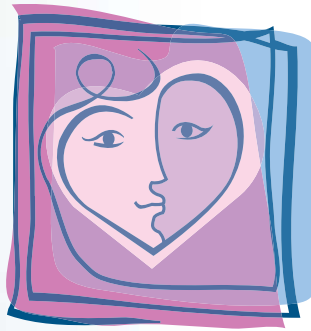
**Jason Yelk, D.O.**

**Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine**

**D.O.:** Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine

**Residency:** WPAFB Medical Center (internal medicine)

### National Recognition for Know Your Numbers Campaign



The Dayton area's Know Your Numbers campaign was presented with the "Excellence in Health Information" award and the "Healthy People 2010" award during the 10th Annual Health Information Awards held by the National Health Information Resource Center. These awards represent two of three major awards given by the National Health Information Resource Center. The campaign also received the Silver Award for the category "Total Health Information." These awards recognize Know Your Numbers as among the nation's best consumer health information programs.

Area partners for Know Your Numbers include: the American Heart Association, Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield, The Dayton Heart Hospital, General Motors, NCR, Pfizer, Premier Health Partners, Sanofi-Synthelabo, UnitedHealthcare, The Wellness Connection, and Wright State University School of Medicine. In addition to support from the partners, the campaign receives partial funding from the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute. The area coalition is led by Richard Schuster, M.D., M.M.M., the Oscar Boonshoft chair and director of the Division of Health Systems Management and associate professor of community health and internal medicine.



*Ohio Department of Health Director J. Nick Baird, M.D., kicked off an intense, four-day training aimed at standardizing emergency response to disasters. Hosted*

*by Wright State University, the Basic and Advanced Disaster Life Support training is designed to better prepare Ohio's health care professionals and emergency response personnel for mass casualty events, whether natural or man-made, conventional or unconventional. This was the first time this training has been offered in Ohio and included a mass triage, use of high-fidelity mannequins, and both classroom and interactive educational modules.*





*Dr. Brian Springer demonstrates an emergency sling to Taryn Collingsworth of Fairborn during Wilderness Medicine Expo 2004. The Department of Emergency Medicine hosted the daylong event on February 21 for the general public. Residents and medical students presented topics ranging from hypothermia to water purification. Workshops demonstrated first aid and emergency splinting techniques.*

## Faculty notes

**Glenn Hamilton, M.D.**, chair and professor of emergency medicine, received a Foundation 20 medal from the Council of the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine in appreciation of his contribution to the development of the college from 1983 to 2003.

**Marshall Kapp, J.D., M.P.H.**, professor of community health and psychiatry, has been appointed editor for the official quarterly scholarly publication, the *Journal of Legal Medicine*, by the American College of Legal Medicine.

**Alex G. Little, M.D.**, professor and the Elizabeth Berry Gray Chair of Surgery, served as editor of a recently published

book, *Complications in Cardiothoracic Surgery: Avoidance & Treatment*. The book was published by Blackwell Futura in February 2004.

**Sherri Morgan, M.D. ('00)**, assistant professor of family medicine, has been named to a three-year term on the Commission on Special Constituencies of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

**John Pascoe, M.D., M.P.H.**, professor of pediatrics and chief of the Division of General and Community Pediatrics, served as contributing editor for the "Report on Undergraduate Medical Education for the 21st Century: A National Medical Education Project," a supplement to *Family Medicine*.

## Academic Excellence Awards

At the Annual Awards Ceremony, Teaching Excellence Awards were presented to:

**S. Bruce Binder, M.D., Ph.D.**, family medicine  
**Thomas Mathews, M.D.**, neurology  
**Stuart J. Nelson, Ph.D.**, pathology  
**Robert P. Turk, M.D.**, surgery

Mentors' Awards went to **Robert D. Grubbs, Ph.D.**, pharmacology and toxicology, and **David G. Bienenfeld, M.D.**, psychiatry.

Excellence in Medical Education Awards were given to **B. Laurel Elder, Ph.D.**, pathology, and **Maria Urban, M.D.**, pediatrics.

## Alpha Omega Alpha (ΑΩΑ) Honor Medical Society

The 24th annual initiation ceremony of the Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Omega Alpha (ΑΩΑ) Honor Medical Society was held on Tuesday, April 27, at the Country Club of the North. The following individuals were inducted:

### Student Initiates

**Mohammad A. M. Almubaslat**  
**Micah W. Baird**  
**Jeremy J. Brywczyński**  
**Sarah A. McElwee-Denny**  
**David M. Foulk**  
**Natalie J. Godzik**  
**Aaron D. Johnson**  
**Emily J. Johnson**  
**Shandra R. Kalter**, Vice President Elect  
**Erica A. Mailer**  
**Anis Miladi**  
**Karl F. Siebuhr**  
**Melissa A. Snyder**  
**Stephen M. Wold**, President Elect

### Faculty Initiates

**Timothy J. Drehmer, M.D.**  
**Randy A. Sansone, M.D.**

### Resident Initiates

**Jigna N. Thakore, M.D.**  
**Bryan M. White, M.D.**



## Of Primary Interest

### Student Notes

#### The Annual Student Awards Ceremony

##### ICM I Award

Kathryn E. Lorenz

##### Human Structure Award

Matthew D. Jones

##### Molecular, Cellular, and Tissue Biology Award

Kimberly J. Stockmaster

##### Principles of Disease Award

Marc V. Orlando

##### Term I Award

Shandra R. Kalter

##### Term II Award

Melissa Snyder

##### ICM II Award

Melissa Snyder

##### John C. Gillen Award for Family Medicine

Heather A. Kleinhenz

##### Medicine Clerkship Award

Joseph C. Seaman

##### Pediatrics Clerkship Award

Sarah A. McElwee-Denny

### Women's Health Clerkship Award

Sarah A. McElwee-Denny

### James B. Peoples Silver Scalpel Award

Karl F. Siebuhr

### Abraham Heller Psychiatry Clerkship Award

Tyler A. Hall

### McGraw-Hill/Appleton and Lange Award

Thomas A. Coffelt and

Kimberly J. Stockmaster



Dean Parmelee, M.D., associate dean for academic affairs, presents an award to Melissa Snyder.



The Shockers began as an intramural, co-ed softball team for the Class of 2006 and ended playing in a Chicago-based tournament for medical schools. Advancing to the quarter finals, the team beat host Rush Medical School, as well as Northwestern Illinois and the University of Illinois at Chicago among others. Team captains were Bill Brady, Matt Janik, and Shannon Armstrong.



(Photo far left) Shane Konrad and Anuj Agarwala and (Photo left) Heather Haynes completed an international medical elective in Swaziland. (Photo right) Fourth-year student Sarah McElwee-Denny (Center) and Dr. Janice Duke ('96) (behind Sarah) spent a one-month clinical mission in Africa.



### Calendar

#### The Annual Medicine Ball

May 26, 2004  
8:00 p.m.  
Dayton Crowne Plaza  
For more information,  
contact 775-2934

#### SNMA Banquet

May 27, 2004  
6:00 p.m.  
Dayton Country Club  
For more information,  
contact 775-2934

#### Graduation

May 28, 2004  
6:30 p.m.  
Schuster Performing  
Arts Center  
For more information,  
contact 775-2934

#### Center for Healthy Communities Annual Meeting

June 9, 2004  
10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.  
Kettering Center Lobby  
For more information,  
contact 775-1125

#### Student Clinician Ceremony

July 12, 2004  
6:00 p.m.  
Student Union Apollo  
(Multipurpose) Room

For more information,  
contact 775-2934

#### Convocation and White Coat Ceremony

August 1, 2004  
3:00 p.m.  
Student Union Apollo  
(Multipurpose) Room  
For more information,  
contact 775-2934

#### SOM Reunion Weekend

August 13-15, 2004  
Downtown Dayton  
For more information,  
contact 775-2972

#### Faculty Meeting

September 16, 2004  
4:30 p.m.

232J Frederick A. White  
Health Center

For more information,  
contact 775-2934

*Vital Signs* is published twice a year for alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of Wright State University School of Medicine.

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